



The truth, some of the truth and everything but the truth

January 2020

On the front cover of this final issue of SMUG is the archdemon Vitrios who was first unleashed upon Winchester by the late Canon of Winchester Cathedral, Roger Lloyd, in his 1962 fable *The Troubling of the City*.

In Lloyd's fable, Vitrios was quite simply an evil force tasked by the devil himself to reduce 'the beating heart of England' to the 'despicable status of a beautiful but dead ecclesiastical museum.'

Why, you may be wondering, is SMUG reviving such a malignant spirit? Well, because something about Lloyd's fable doesn't make sense. Allow me to explain.

For Vitrios to carry out his original 1962 mission, he rested control of an ailing local newspaper called the *Scrutineer*, the editor of which was the already godless and corrupted Scrivener.

Together, Vitrios and Scrivener befuddled the population by publishing half truths, misinformation and fake news, causing the good people of Winchester to bicker amongst themselves and ridding them of any inclination to forgive.

Central to Vitrios' plans was the sabotaging of a conference due to held in Winchester called *The Council of Universal Reconciliation*. The purpose of the conference was to find ways to achieve peace between warring local parties and politicians.

Opposing Vitrios' evil plan to sabotage the conference was the hero of Lloyd's fable, a local monk called Father Gill who had it on good authority (from an angel) that the people of Winchester could not defeat the demons alone. They required God's help, for only He can defeat the devil. So the good people of Winchester followed Father Gill to the sanctuary of the cathedral and asked God for help. God duly obliged by summoning his army and defeating the devil in a bloody celestial battle.

The final reckoning in Lloyd's fable took place in a local heavenly Court of Justice where the spirit of St Swithun offered forgiveness and freedom to those in the docks who asked for it, and a return to 'unrelenting plotting and fighting in hopeless revolt' for those who refused to be 'released'. Vitrios opted for hopeless revolt.



Vitrios chose hopeless revolt

And so here he is back again, revolting in 2020. Here's why.

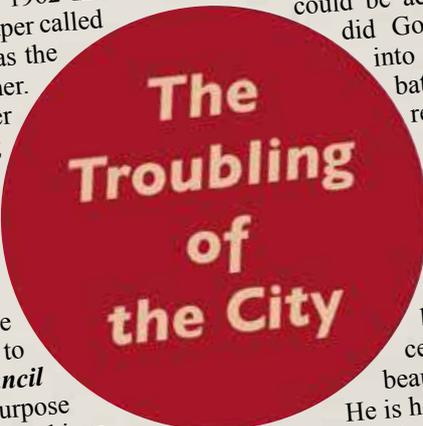
If the mission of the 'goodies' in Lloyd's fable was to ensure that the *Council for Universal Reconciliation* went ahead in order that peace between warring parties could be achieved through reconciliation, why did God resort to bludgeoning the devil into submission on a bloody celestial battlefield? Isn't the whole point of reconciliation that dialogue, listening, collective negotiation and the active communication about conflicting ideologies are used to resolve conflict and restore relations? Not brute force.

Assuming you agree, isn't it only fair that Vitrios be given a chance to at least be heard. After all, his current mission certainly isn't to 'reduce Winchester to a beautiful but dead ecclesiastical museum'.

He is here to do precisely the opposite - to stop Winchester from becoming one. Then again, it is possible that the same malignant spirit that seduced the editor of the *Scrutineer* has tapped into my own vanity.

Either way, Vitrios is back, so why not hear him out. And if you don't wish to be entertained by the devil, I hope you find something else to amuse you in this final issue of SMUG.

Have fun!



Drink up



Lady Wench

Bar End earmarked for new retail store



REAL NEWS OR FAKE NEWS @smugw

Nick Pick *Commercial Correspondent*

DISCOUNT retailer-of-everything *The Range* has announced the opening of a new store at Bar End. Chief Development, Expansion and Growth officer, Ms. Ink, presented plans to local residents in a packed meeting last Thursday.

Enthused Ms. Ink, “The site we have earmarked is currently occupied by Winchester’s bespoke recycling facility (‘The Old Tip’) and provides immense potential for our operation, with almost zero capital outlay. In fact, we plan to simply change the signs. Let’s face it, the stuff Winchester throws out is what everyone else buys new.”

Local resident Ernest Clever (68) is not happy about the development: “I’ve been buying my computer monitors, glass coffee tables and golf clubs at The Old Tip since it opened at the start of capitalism. Once *The Range* moves in it’ll be nothing but higher prices and cinder toffee at the checkout.”

It’ll be nothing but high prices and cinder toffee at the checkout.

However, not everyone disagrees with the new store. Cherise Button (26) is thrilled: “This is just what Bar End needs. As a mature student studying for a BA in Art, Pets, Clothes, Sweets and Furniture at the University of Winchester, I shall be making good use of the Range’s facilities.”

Knife crime in Winchester on the rise

“Parents to blame” claims chairwoman of parliamentary group on knife crime.

A **REPORT** commissioned by the parliamentary group on knife crimes has revealed that knife crime in Winchester has increased by 20% since last year.

Winchester MP Steve Brine has likened the rise in knife crime to a ‘disease’ and has created a task force to tackle the issue.

On the back of the findings, the task force has published the following guidelines to ‘inform and educate’ parents so they can no longer use ignorance as an excuse for their children’s behaviour.

Knife crime is not something we will tolerate.



Government Guidelines for parents

► **When presented with two knives, always start with the one placed on the outside.**

- **Don’t** stab your food.
- **Always** use serving utensils to serve yourself, not your personal silverware.
- **Don’t** gesture with your knife.
- **Only ever** cut one piece of food at a time.
- **When you pause** during eating but have not finished, the knife and fork are placed in the “resting position” with the knife placed on the right side of the plate in the 4 o’clock position, blade in, and the fork placed on the left side in the 8 o’clock position, tines up. This alerts your waiter that you’re not finished.

“Knife crime,” says the new task force leader Teresa Cucillo, “is not something we will tolerate in Winchester and we ask anyone who suspects their children or siblings to report them before it is too late.”

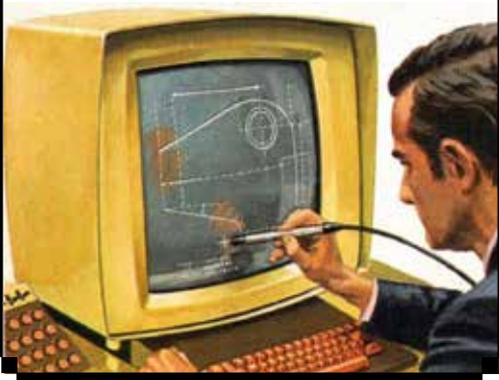
Proposed solutions have ranged from the severe to the outlandish, but most seem to gloss over the fundamental causes of knife related crimes.

Explains the head of the new task force, “It’s easy to blame the influence of nearby Eastleigh for the rise, or isolate it to those segments of society that frequent places like Winchester Rants. But the truth of the matter is that the greatest rise of knife crime has been recorded in middle and upper-middle class families.

“Causes include a lack of discipline at home, a lowering of standards and defiant children refusing to follow the rules. The root of the problem, however, appears to be ignorance of the rules.”

Komputer Korner

Questions and answers about common challenges faced by Wintonia's computer users, and handy tips for the novice and expert alike.



Dear Komputer Korner,

I've been trying to find a wonderful website that I visited last week. It was called www.quiltingquilts.com or something very similar. I tried looking in browser history but it's completely empty. My husband explained to me that it is very important to erase internet usage history daily, and sometimes several times a day, so it looks like our computer has developed a mind of its own! All be it a very tidy one! Please help Komputer Korner! Can you find my browser history?

Janet from Winnall

Komputer Korner Solution?!

Hi Janet, Yes this is a common problem faced by many of our clients and their husbands. We suggest you ask your husband to investigate the issue and attempt to recover the deleted history. It's easily done and we're sure he knows how. We suggest you sit with him as he does this so that you will know exactly what to do next time.

Dear Komputer Korner,

I want to know what to do once I've moved my mouse to bottom of the mouse mat. I can see the corresponding arrow rests half way down my CRT monitor but I simply cannot get it to move any further because the mouse has come to the edge of the mat.

Ray from Oliver's Battery

Komputer Korner Solution?!

Hi Ray! Our experts have looked into this issue for you and we recommend you purchase another mouse mat, place it under your existing one and continue moving your mouse in a downward direction. You should see the arrow continue its hoped for progress. We have a selection of mousemats currently available at £9.99 per cubic foot. Each one is designated as a specific add on (left, right, up, down) for your existing mat configuration.



Dear Komputer Korner,

I am looking for a piece of software to permanently erase any deleted files, browser histories etc. Something that even GCHQ couldn't piece back together. I'm willing to pay several thousand pounds for such a piece of software. Please.

Derek from Winnall

Komputer Korner Solution?!

Sorry Derek, I'm afraid this kind of software is only available to security personnel and cyber-forensic teams.



Dear Komputer Korner,

I've lost my fucking dissertation! It's fucking gone! I thought autosave was on but there's no fucking previous versions. Oh Christ, it's hand in tomorrow. Why does this always happen to me every hand in day. Please help me KK, I can't have deleted it, can I?

Alisha from Winchester University

Komputer Korner Solution?!

Hi again Alisha, good to hear from you so soon after last hand-in. If you remember what we told you and your parents in May, you actually have to do the assignments. You can't cry wolf and blame the technology. Just get off your arse and do some (fucking) work.



Dear Komputer Korner,

I'd just like to applaud Microsoft India for their timely and wholly unexpected intervention and advice received by phone last week. Who would have known that a virus had infiltrated my online banking passwords. They did! Thank you so much Microsoft India for your free support.

Janet from Winnall



Council decides to reset city ‘a bit like the Cotswolds’

WITH the Lib Dems and Conservatives bed swapping, the air quality killing thousands by the day, the threat of flooding

meaning the only real inward investment is from sandbag salespeople, and the never ending relentless negativity about the city on Winchester rants from feckless unemployed types who spend their feral lives desperately trying to put together a coherent Facebook post on their second-hand Samsungs, the council this week made a brave decision.

Said a spokesperson sipping from a Costa coffee drive-through cup (non-recyclable), “We’re starting again, it just isn’t working. We were going to rebuild a lot of it anyway, but the archaeology keeps getting in the way, and Cllr Gottleib now owns a fair lump of the city centre and we’re just sick of dealing with him, we really can’t be arsed anymore. So we’re just going to level the place and move it to Bushfield Camp.

The Upside

“This does have advantages. Commuters can see the M3 so they can make an informed decision as to whether to try and make it to work or ‘work from home’ (LOL), the land is high up so it won’t flood, but we will pump the river up here as people really liked the idea of an open river again in Middle Brook Street like the Cotswolds, and it’s close to Stanmore so the cleaners can still come round and wipe Jerney’s snot from the bedstead.

“Critically, the new leisure centre can have a ski slope down to St Cross so all the spoilt rich arsonist brats from Winchester College can practise for their winter holidays in Aspen.

The Downside

“There will be some downsides. We’ll lose Alfred of course, but we can replace him with a continuously changing display of how the Silver Hill/Central Regeneration/Saxon Gate might look like pending subsequent judicial reviews (ad infinitum), and regrettably we’ll lose the offensively drunk local characters in Abbey Gardens who are too disorientated to make it up the hill and will eventually just fall in the river and get washed down to Eastleigh, so our loss is their STD clinic’s gain.

“We’ll try to move the Buttercross, but that’s purely to see if we can provoke another riot as we’ve not had one since 1907 so we think that’ll be a useful distraction from what we’re up to.

“We’re also running a sweepstake on when it will happen. The winner gets lifetime membership to UNISON and a £5 voucher to The Ivy.

Priorities

“Obviously, this will be a huge task for the council, so our first priority will be state of the art council offices complete with VR suite for the Cllrs so they can

persuade themselves they’re doing a good job, adjacent to an euthanasia suite for when they’re not, and an excrement canon so all the council officer’s waste, complete with free trade organic sweetcorn, can be fired off down to Portsmouth Harbour.

“To further enhance the environmental credentials of the development, solar panels will be installed to capture the sunlight shining out of the resident’s arses, and a wind turbine at the station to capture the wind generated from all the copies of the Telegraph being waved around at Winchester Station to protect people’s personal space between 7.05 and 7.55am. It will also capture all the snorts of self-righteous indignation subsequently generated by reading the comment pieces.”

In a separate recycling scheme also announced today by a token spokeswoman, dog mess from around the flats in the Winnal estates will be posted back through the bastard owner’s letterboxes.”

When asked for further detail, the spokesperson was unable to provide anything specific, but when pressed did confirm they had mostly been focused on having a nice office, and not having to deal with the Jen 9 improvements as it was “bad enough having to deal with the London commuters who treat Winchester like a hotel, then just bitch about the fact it isn’t as good as London when they are here at the weekends clogging up the coffee shops drinking skinny lattes, wankers...”

We really can't be arsed anymore





Live

● The Human Show

Psychological reality drama starring humans from the planet Earth. For the Human Race to survive it must overcome a series of almost insurmountable obstacles which, unbeknownst to humans, we planted in their way purely for our entertainment.

“Gripping, hide-behind-the-floating-sofa alien drama.”

Alien news



If you missed Season 2020, here are the highlights.

- Australia wildfire season blazed its way from December 2019 into 2020.
- The Duke and Duchess of Sussex quit as “senior” royals.
- The World Health Organization announced that a deadly coronavirus had emerged in Wuhan, China.
- President Trump faced an impeachment trial on charges that he asked Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter.
- Lockdowns across the world due to coronavirus.
- Toilet roll.
- Boris and co test positive for COVID-19
- Clapping and Banana bread.
- Harvey Weinstein was convicted; a watershed moment for the #MeToo movement.
- A nice trip to Barnard Castle for the family Cummings.
- The pandemic triggers a global recession as numerous countries went into lockdown.
- The killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor sparked a wave of demonstrations and riots across the world to demand an end to police brutality and racial injustice.
- Wear a mask, don't wear a mask war.
- Eat out to help out...Go to work don't go to work..
- Murder Hornets!
- Kim Jong Un, Dead? Not Dead? Vegetative state? Didn't feel like working?
- A massive explosion at a Beirut port, sparked the accidental detonation of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate.
- “The Black Panther” died.
- Wildfires erupted from California to Washington state, displacing hundreds of thousands of people.
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Supreme Court Justice and unrelenting trailblazer for gender equality died.
- Trump tested positive for COVID-19 during the electoral campaign.
- Lockdown 2 - Lockdown with a vengeance. Toilet roll fine.
- Trump loses to Biden...but doesn't concede, cue unfounded claims of vote tampering in key states.
- Cummings ceases to secretly run the UK! Who will secretly run the UK now?
- It's all about the race for a vaccine...mixed feelings about whether it's the most vulnerable who are vaccinated first or simply those we can afford to lose?
- The UK's post-Brexit transition period bumbles on without any resolution in sight despite the fact it expires on December 31 2020.



What could possibly happen in 2021?

2021 spoiler

GANG OF FOUR DECLARE WAR

In a bold move Ossetia, Catalunya, Northern Ireland and Scotland form the latest in line of new ‘Dispersed Nation States’ and declare war on Georgia, Spain and England.